March 25, 2011

This Week:

- Way To Go, Kittitas
- Spring Sailing Schedule Starts March 27
- Plan Ahead: Mukilteo Terminal Temporary Closure
- WTS Celebrates Secretary Hammond
- Presentation to Transportation Commission
- Customer Compliment

Way To Go, Kittitas
I want to commend Captain Edward Jenssen and the crew of the Kittitas for their quick response on Wednesday morning to a call from the U.S. Coast Guard to help suppress a fire on a private vessel just west of Everett. The swift action of the crew is a testament to the solid training of WSF employees to manage emergency situations. Thanks for the outstanding work and professionalism! To read more about this event and other WSF interest stories, visit http://wsdotferries.blogspot.com/.

Spring Sailing Schedule Starts March 27
The spring sailing schedule begins this Sunday, March 27. More sailings will be added to popular routes and the international route resumes service. I look forward to joining our customers on the first sailing from Anacortes to Sidney, B.C. on Sunday. Vehicle reservations are strongly encouraged for travel between Anacortes/Sidney, B.C. and Port Townsend/Coupeville. Spring also means more school groups taking field trips around Puget Sound and I encourage schools to call ahead to reserve space. For reservations call 1-888-808-7977. For more details on the spring schedule, visit www.wsdot.wa.gov/ferries/schedule.

Plan Ahead: Mukilteo Terminal Temporary Closure
As a reminder, the Mukilteo Terminal is closed for construction today through Sunday. This is the second of three temporary closures of the terminal. The third and last closure is planned for April 1-3. During the closures, ferry traffic from Clinton (Whidbey Island) will go to Edmonds. Work has been underway at the terminal since early February during the evenings. For construction photos from last weekend, visit www.flickr.com/photos/wsdot/sets/72157626164106479. This weekend, crews will make improvements to the electrical system, and take the apron off the bridge so they can replace the hinges and mounts. For more information on the temporary closure, visit www.wsdot.wa.gov/Projects/Ferries/mukilteoterminal/preservation.

WTS Celebrates Secretary Hammond
On Tuesday evening, I attended a Women's Transportation Seminar (WTS) event, which honored Secretary Paula Hammond as "Woman of the Year." This award honors a woman who is an outstanding role model and has contributed to the advancement of women and minorities in transportation.

Presentation to Transportation Commission
On Wednesday, I was accompanied by Deputy Directors Jean Baker and George Capacci, and WSF Planning Director Ray Deardorf to present to the Washington State Transportation Commission on fuel cost mitigation, new vessel construction, on-time performance, and cost savings. I appreciated the opportunity to update the Commission and answer their questions. The presentations are available at www.wsdot.wa.gov/ferries/weekly.

Customer Compliment
I received a compliment this week from the co-chairs of the Whidbey Gardening Workshop about WSF’s efforts to accommodate them during the closure of the Mukilteo Ferry Terminal. I would like to give a special thanks to Senior Programs Manager Susan Harris-Huether, who was instrumental in making travel seamless for workshop participants.

The ferry system went out of its way to assure that all attendees and speakers were able to make the starting times of the workshop in Coupeville on Saturday, March 19 during the reconstruction of the Mukilteo dock. The
ferry system was awesome. I received an e-mail about the ferry change and how to buy tickets and get to the detour dock. I even got a phone call from a ferry rep the same morning I e-mailed with a question. They made the change easy to handle. Please extend our thanks to all who made this possible and helped to make our Island County Master Gardeners’ workshop a big success.

Next Week:
- Reopening of Sidney, B.C. Terminal
- Temporary Closure of Mukilteo Terminal, April 1-3

David Moseley’s weekly reports are available on the WSDOT Ferries Division website at www.wsdot.wa.gov/ferries/weekly.

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